

REMARKS

Claims 22-99 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4, 15, and 16 have been previously cancelled. The claims remaining in the application are 1-3, 5-14, and 17-21.

Drawings

A copy of the formal drawings are submitted herewith with a copy of the Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,325) in view of Large et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0039019). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action misinterprets several aspects of what is actually shown in Dewald et al. For example, the Office Action states that Dewald et al. shows “a light source for providing a beam of multicolor light.” This is not correct. Dewald et al. actually shows beams of single color light which scroll sequentially across the modulator. See Figures 5, 6, and 7. Thus, portions of the modulator in Dewald et al. are exposed to one of the three primary colors at a time and “a controller provides appropriate image data for each portion of the modulator in synchronization with the sweep of the primary color bands across the modulator surface.”

This is in sharp contrast to the present invention which claims a light source having “a beam of multicolored light.” See Figures 3 and 5 of the present invention. Although the percentage of color or hue in each segment may vary, the beam is multicolor and not a single primary color as in Dewald et al.

The Office Action incorrectly states that Dewald et al. shows “periodic attenuation.” The independent claim remaining in the present application, as amended, clearly shows that use of periodic attenuation in the claims of the present invention is meant to include changes in both color (or hue) and intensity. This is not shown in Dewald et al.

The Office Action states that a spatial light modulator is discussed at “column 36, lines 36-42.” Since there is no column 36 in the Dewald et al. reference, Applicant assumes that the Office Action is intended to refer to column 5, lines 36-42, since this section refers to a spatial light modulator. Applicant agrees that this section does in fact show a spatial light modulator, however, as discussed above in more detail the “variably tinted beam” of the present invention is not shown. The Dewald et al. reference teaches a sequence of primary color bands processed across the modulator.

The Office Action states that a control logic processor in Dewald et al. modulates a bias voltage in synchronization with periodic attenuation of a variable filter. This is not correct. The apparatus disclosed in Dewald et al. “synchronizes” digital image data for a single color as each of the three primary color bands scroll across the modulator. Inputting image data to a spatial light modulator is different than controlling the bias voltage to the spatial light modulator as taught and claimed in the present invention. See Figure 1.

The Office Action admits that Dewald et al. does not disclose single tone values of a single hue. This is correct. The Office Action then proceeds to state Large et al. teaches “a single tone value of single hue.” This statement is incorrect when examining the Large et al. reference in its entirety. The Large et al. references discloses a tuneable optical filter having a variable wavelength transmittance. Referring to paragraph 0056, referenced by the Office Action, Large et al. discloses how a single “birefringent plate, (rotates) the input polarization by 90 degrees (and) causes the color to change from one hue, through gray, to the anti-hue.” Although this paragraph does discuss “hue,” in the present patent application, as discussed in more detail in the amendment submitted October 19, 2004, hue is, in fact, synthesized using some combination of component colors. This is significantly different from the Large et al. reference which discusses rotation of input polarization to change, for example, green through gray to magenta.

Both the Dewald et al. and the Large et al. references have been clearly distinguished from the claim limitations of the present invention. However, no combination of these two references discloses or shows or suggests a combination that displays images having tone values of a single hue, formed from multicolored light, using a spatial light modulator with bias voltage control.

The Office Action has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Richards (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,661). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,649). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claims 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Dawson (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0021832). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Eaton (U.S. Patent No. 4,876,608). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Berlin (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,303). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Washburn (U.S. Patent No. 5,585,691). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washburn, Dewald et al., and Large et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,540). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washburn, Dewald et al., and Large et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,540). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dewald et al. and Large et al. as applied to claim 1

above, and further in view of Patel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,935,820). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

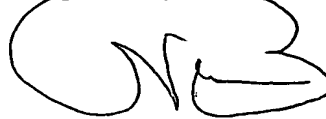
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

Enclosures: Copy of Formal Drawings
Copy of Letter to Official Draftsperson